

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T USNATO 0131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION JANUARY 13 ON AIR MANPOWER

REF: A. STATE 8358; B. STATE 263866

1. SPC ON JANUARY 13 CONSIDERED U.S. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING WITHOUT REQUIRED AIR REDUCTIONS.

2. UK REP (LOGAN) SAID UK BELIEVES THE ALLIES SHOULD MAKE THIS OFFER TO THE OTHER SIDE, AND UK SEES NO DIFFICULTY IN AHG MAKING THE OFFER EARLY IN THE NEGOTIATING ROUND. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THE UK REP SAID THE ALLIES MIGHT NEED TO CONSIDER QUALIFYING THE PHRASE "COMMON CEILING" UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, SINCE THE PHRASE WOULD NO LONGER MEAN A COMMON CEILING ON GROUND FORCES ALONE. HE ALSO NOTED THE NEED FOR ALLIED NEGOTIATORS TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SUB-SECRET

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CEILING ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUND AND AIR FORCES, UNTIL ALLIES DECIDED ON THIS POINT, AND FOR THE NEGOTIATORS TO BEAR IN MIND THE MAJOR ALLIED PURPOSE OF SECURING AN EFFECTIVE LIMITATION AT A LEVEL OF PARITY ON

PACT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER, AND IN PARTICULAR A LIMITATION ON THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION.

3. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID BONN BELIEVES THE SPC SHOULD DISCUSS THOROUGHLY THE SUBSTANCE OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL, AND THEN SHOULD CONSIDER INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AHG. HE SAID BONN WOULD AGREE WITH THE FIRST POINT RAISED BY UK REP. BONN PREFERRED TO KEEP THE PHRASE "COMMON CEILING" TO DESCRIBE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES, AND TO USE A NEW TERM, SUCH AS "COMBINED COMMON CEILING" FOR INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER. BONN DOES NOT WANT TO "MUDDY" THE CONCEPT OF PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. FRG REP SAID BONN WOULD LIKE A DISCUSSION IN SPC ON THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR SERVICE SUB-CEILINGS. HE SAID BONN WOULD LIKE A BETTER IDEA OF ALLIED THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE ALLIES TO AGREE ON THE SUB-CEILINGS ISSUE AND TRANSMIT GUIDANCE ON IT TO THE AHG AT THIS TIME.

4. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) MAINTAINED THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT INTEREST THE SOVIETS, BECAUSE IT WOULD ELIMINATE THE VALUE TO THE SOVIETS OF RE-DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, AND BECAUSE ALLIED DATA INDICATES A SLIGHTLY HIGHER NUMBER OF PACT AIRMEN THAN ALLIED AIRMEN, THUS NECESSITATING HIGHER PACT REDUCTIONS UNDER THE U.S. PROPOSAL.

5. U.S. REP (MOORE) STRESSED THE U.S. OBJECTIVE OF MAINTAINING THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF THE NEGOTIATION ON GROUND FORCES, AND NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAD PROPOSED INTRODUCING AIR MANPOWER INTO MBFR PRECISELY IN ORDER TO ATTAIN THAT OBJECTIVE.

6. COMMENT: REF A ARRIVED JANUARY 14. MISSION OFFICERS (PEREZ

AND MOORE) HAVE ALREADY BRIEFED UK REP (LOGAN) ON ITS CONTENTS, AND WILL BRIEF FRG REP UPON HIS RETURN FROM BONN JANUARY 15. MISSION WILL PRESENT THE POSITION STATED IN THAT MESSAGE AT SPC MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 16. UK REP'S INITIAL REACTION
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WAS THAT THE MODIFICATION OF THE U.S. POSITION WOULD PROBABLY DELAY CONSIDERABLY THE APPROVAL OF FURTHER NAC GUIDANCE ON AIR MANPOWER TO THE AHG. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO CONVINCE FRG, IN PARTICULAR, THAT U.S. AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I DID NOT CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT FOR PHASE II. HE KNEW THAT THE UK WOULD CONSIDER THE MODIFIED U.S. PROPOSAL WITH AN OPEN MIND, AND HE SAW AN ADVANTAGE THAT THE MODIFIED U.S. PROPOSAL EMPHASIZED REDUCTIONS, AND THAT A PROPOSAL OF THIS SORT MIGHT HELP DEFLATE THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL VIS-A-VIS PUBLIC OPINION. HOWEVER, HE WAS SURE THE UK WOULD WANT THOROUGH ALLIANCE STUDY OF THE MODIFIED U.S. PROPOSAL, AND HE SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE NAC COULD APPROVE GUIDANCE TO THE AHG PRIOR TO THE EASTER RECESS. MISSION OFFICERS POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD ADVANCE THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ALLIED POSITION, AND STRESSED THE UTILITY OF HAVING

GUIDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. IN VIEW OF FRG REQUEST THAT SPC DISCUSS SERVICE SUB-CEILINGS, MISSION BELIEVES IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO INFORM ALLIES OF U.S. THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT IN ORDER TO WORK TOWARD THE KIND OF GUIDANCE THE U.S. WANTS ON THIS ISSUE. MISSION THEREFORE INTENDS TO SUBMIT TO SPC ON JANUARY 16 THE LAST TWO PARAS OF SUBJ-SECTION II-B-2 IN REF B, BEGINNING WITH WORDS "GIVEN THESE FACTORS," AND ENDING WITH WORDS "NATURE OF THE REDUCTIONS," AND TO STATE THAT THE LAST OF THESE TWO PARAGRAPHS CONSTITUTES PROPOSED GUIDANCE FOR INCLUSION IN THE NAC GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON AIR MANPOWER.BRUCE

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